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Marine Safety Office Baton Rouge
U.S. Coast Guard

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



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Press Release

JOINT HIGH WATER TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER ESTABLISHED

BATON ROUGE, La.- The U.S. Coast Guard and the marine industry established a marine Traffic Control Center (TCC) Friday to monitor and guide commercial vessels through downtown Baton Rouge. A safety zone has also been established on the Mississippi River extending from six miles north of the U.S.-190 Bridge to six miles south of the Interstate-10 Bridge. All vessels entering the safety zone are required to coordinate their movement with the staff of the TCC they can be reached via VHF radio on channels 67 and 11.

The TCC and safety zone were implemented when the Mississippi River reached a height of 35 feet, flood stage for the Baton Rouge area, and will remain in effect until the river has crested and begins to fall to safe levels. River conditions above 35 feet are more challenging for commercial vessels due to increased river flow and velocity. The Mississippi River is expected to crest at 39 feet on or about Feb. 1. The TCC and safety zone are anticipated to be in effect for two to three weeks as a precautionary measure.

Certain restrictions have been implemented to ensure the safe voyage of marine traffic transiting the safety zone including:

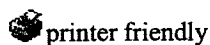
- The use of assist tugs for southbound vessels operating in the vicinity of the U.S.-190 Bridge and for vessels entering and exiting the Port Allen Lock.
- Restrictions on the number of barges and available horsepower for southbound vessels operating in the vicinity of the U.S.-190 Bridge.
- Daylight transit only for southbound vessels operating in the vicinity of the U.S.-190

Bridge.

- Vessels operating in the safety zone are required to be staffed by experienced pilots.

The implementation of the TCC and safety zone are pro-active measures based on lessons learned from previous high-water periods and are intended to ensure the safe transit of marine traffic.

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